

taken similar stands in the past to protect the families who shop at their stores.

Even during tough economic times, Wal-Mart has found ways to keep people coming through the door, and it has not sacrificed the principles Sam Walton has established.

Those family-friendly principles are part of Wal-Mart's success and have set the example for how retailers should act, regardless of the economic conditions or latest trends.

WHERE WAS THE IMMINENT THREAT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration made specific, unequivocal statements about the imminent threat posed by Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, repeatedly claiming they had intelligence showing Iraq had 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulin toxin, 500 tons of sarin mustard and VX nerve agent, and over 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical agents. So where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

At the State of the Union the President said, Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin mustard and VX nerve agent. Where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

This administration repeatedly claimed Iraq's weapons of mass destruction represented an imminent threat to this country. They claimed specific evidence of vast stockpiles. Where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

Did this administration deliberately mislead this Nation into war, telling us there was an imminent threat when there was not?

The resolution of inquiry now signed by 36 Members of the House aims to find out the truth.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE IN IRAQ

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), who just addressed this body, raised the issue that I suspect we will hear again and again before this Congress. Where are the WMDs, and who do you believe? Did the Bush administration mislead the American people?

Well, in answering the question of who you believe, I believe Saddam Hussein, Mr. Speaker, who in 1991 after being soundly defeated in the Persian Gulf War admitted to the U.N. agency responsible for monitoring the cease fire that he possessed 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and

412 tons of chemical weapons with 25 long-range missiles.

Even President Clinton when he bombed Baghdad in 1998 said he did so to "attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs in its capacity to threaten its neighbors."

As a State Department official told the Committee on International Relations last week, there was no change in the assessment of the WMD program from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration. Those weapons were there. The program was there. The President led America aright in this war.

CHILD TAX CREDIT SHOULD APPLY TO ALL

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, hopefully this week the House will correct an error in the most recently signed tax cut bill and extend the tax credit to literally hundreds of thousands of American families who do not qualify under the act that was signed by the President.

One of the arguments that has been used against extending this tax credit for children to lower-income people is that they do not pay enough taxes.

This is the most recent payroll stub from one of my Little Rock residents, a single mom with two children. She works over 40 hours a week as a certified nursing assistant at a State facility.

She pays \$51.80 so far this year in Federal taxes. Look at the next two lines. She pays Social Security tax, a Federal tax. She pays her Medicare tax. A Federal tax. She pays State taxes. She pays State excise tax. She pays State sales tax. These people pay taxes. They have children. They deserve to get the benefit of this tax cut also. Please vote for a clean version of the extension of this child tax credit.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS NORTH KOREA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in my travels over the years promoting democracy, I have visited communist nations, but none have had the anomalies of my visit to the capital of North Korea, Pyongyang, on a congressional delegation last week led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

The government officials tried to show North Korea as if nothing were wrong. Yet empty streets and buildings gave signs of a fragile economy, and the intense communist and anti-American propaganda gave signs of a weak society.

President Bush has praised our troops for getting the world's attention

with success in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our invitation was a reflection of this attention, summarized by delegation co-chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), who said, "The world has either seen the light or felt the heat."

North Korea is a tipping point, struggling to hold up a crumbling society that was neglected in the pursuit of nuclear weapons. I support the efforts of President Bush to seek a peaceful solution with North Korea so they will be disarmed by the nuclear threat and that innocent North Korean civilian can be saved from tragedy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IS GRIM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that the President does not want you to hear about. It is called our country's current unemployment situation.

Now, when the President began his term a little over 2 years ago, our Nation's unemployment rate stood at 4.1 percent, but today it stands at 6.1 percent. That means that there are 2.6 million people more who do not have a job. That is not those people who lost their jobs during this time and were able to find another job that paid less. There are plenty of those people who are making less. Or those people who stayed on the job but had to make less because their wages were cut.

No, these are people who are out of jobs, 2.6 million more people; 1.1 million more of them in California.

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The situation is even worse if you are a Hispanic, because the unemployment rate is now at 8.2 percent for Hispanics.

More than 1.5 million Hispanics, Mr. President, have lost their jobs since you took office. We have got to start talking about this and doing something about this job loss.

WILLIAM "BOO" BARTON

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young man from Groesbeck, Texas, William "Boo" Barton, a 17-year-old high school junior with an incredible athletic gift, an incredible story and an incredibly big heart, as big as the State of Texas. Last September while playing for the Groesbeck Goats football team, Boo Barton suffered a tragic injury on the field. Shortly afterwards, doctors were forced to amputate his left leg 4 inches below the knee. The doctors told Boo with luck he would be able to walk, but

Boo and his track coach, Phil LaFountaine, had bigger dreams. Three months after being fitted with a prosthetic leg, with family, friends and teammates looking on, Boo Barton defied all the odds by running the 100-meter race at the Groesbeck Goat relays. His time: 14.06. Some may say that was not the winning time that day, but I and everyone in the stands know better.

Mr. Speaker, Boo Barton is an inspiring example to all of us. He shows us with the power of positive thinking and persistence through adversity, you can still dream bold dreams in America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FULLY FUND THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon the President held a Rose Garden ceremony to celebrate the No Child Left Behind Act. I voted for that legislation and I wish I could have joined in the celebration, but unfortunately because the administration refuses to fund the new law, I spent my afternoon answering questions from unhappy local leaders in my district who wanted to know where the money is going to come from to pay for the President's education reforms. Despite yesterday's White House photo op, the fact remains that the administration is cutting \$20 billion from No Child Left Behind. Local leaders know that they will get stuck with the bill for these educational cuts.

Make no mistake, the Bush educational cuts will result in worse schools, cuts in local services like law enforcement and fire and rescue or higher property taxes, or all of the above. There has got to be a better way.

Last week I introduced H.R. 2366, the Fully Fund the No Child Left Behind Act. My bill simply requires the Federal Government to fund No Child Left Behind. Mr. Speaker, it is only fair. I urge my colleagues to join us in this legislation.

MEDICARE

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, finally a strengthened Medicare system that includes prescription drug coverage seems to be the number one priority for both houses of Congress. The time is right to make progress. We have a tremendous opportunity to reform Medicare and help our seniors. The budget of \$400 billion over the next 10 years is enough to strengthen and improve Medicare, so we do have the resources to make reform work.

Our Nation has made a binding commitment to bring affordable health

care to our seniors. We must honor that commitment by making sure Medicare stays current with the needs of today's seniors. When Medicare was launched 38 years ago, medicine focused on surgery and hospital stays. Today doctors routinely treat patients with prescription drugs, preventive care and groundbreaking medical devices. Our goal is to give seniors the best, most innovative care. This will require a strong, up-to-date Medicare system that relies on innovation and quality delivery, not bureaucratic rules and regulations. We can reach that goal now.

VETERANS FACE INCREASED COSTS FOR HEALTH CARE

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out the shabby treatment that this House and the administration is directing toward our Nation's veterans and our Nation's children. Just yesterday it was confirmed in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs that the administration continues to push for a \$250 annual enrollment fee for many of our veterans just to be able to participate in the VA health care system. They want to increase the cost of a prescription drug from \$7 to \$15 a prescription. They want to increase the cost of a clinic visit from \$15 to \$20. At a time when our young men and women are fighting for this country in Iraq, this President and this Congress want to impose additional financial hardships on the backs of our veterans. It does not make sense. It is time for the people of this country to become aware of what is happening. This administration is treating our veterans in a shabby manner and it ought to stop.

EXPANDING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for the last few days the Democrats have been demanding that the Republicans bring up the child tax credit and extend it for lower-income working families. The Senate passed this bill. It is time for the House to bring it up. What do we hear today? What have the House Republicans done? Basically what they have done is to take this very small amount of money, \$3.5 billion that will pay for these 12 million kids to get their child tax credit, and they have now expanded it, they are not paying for it and they are trying to cover and pay \$82 billion for an expanded tax break for wealthier individuals.

Why is it that we cannot just take up the Senate-passed bill, give these 12 million kids and their parents a tax

break that they deserve, and instead we are holding this bill hostage so that we can have more tax breaks for wealthier people and deal with other tax issues that are not germane to these 12 million kids? I resent the fact that the House Republicans are now holding this bill hostage, holding these working families hostage to try to expand tax cuts for other people and wealthier individuals.

EXPANDING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, can I read the roll: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Texas, Florida, Georgia. And it goes on and on; 19 million children left out in the cold.

Mr. Speaker, why can we not be a cooperative and collaborative Congress that works on behalf of the American people? Why is it that the President has made a statement this morning or yesterday saying support the Senate bill? What kind of leadership says that the President's representative who has asked this Congress to collaborate to provide a tax credit refund for working families, Ari Fleischer, someone says, "He does not have a vote"?

Mr. Speaker, the American people have a vote. I frankly do not hear those making \$150,000 clamoring for this tax credit refund for children but I do hear the working families who make \$26,000, who get up early in the morning, who pay payroll taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes saying, give us a simple break. Allow the Senate bill to go forward, allow the President to sign it. Let us work on behalf of the American people and not special interests.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

COMMERCIAL SPECTRUM ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1320) to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to facilitate the reallocation of spectrum from governmental to commercial users, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows: